



Volume 4, Issue 6

Ouranophantor

JUNE 2021

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Church Office: info@stbasilchicago.org

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Telephone: 312-243-3738

Phone: 847-558-9849

Office Fax: 312-243-7961

email: frdimitri@stbasilchicago.org

Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy

Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 6:30 a.m.

Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 20, 2021

- + Men In Black - MIB – Priests Who Cook. Virtual Fundraiser
- + <https://e.givesmart.com/events/lty/>

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

- + St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church Golf Outing
- + Odyssey Country Club, 19110 S. Ridgeland Ave. Tinley Park, IL

We welcome new families to our parish.

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese.

Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

40-Day Blessings



May 16, 2021

Leonidas
son of
Emmanuel & Angela Rigatos

Baptisms



May 16, 2021

Diamantis
son of
Philip & Katherine Hiotis
Godparents: Stavros & Maria Stergiou

May 22, 2021

Nikolaos
son of
Paul & Pamela Sianis
Godparents: George & Athanasia Nassopoulos

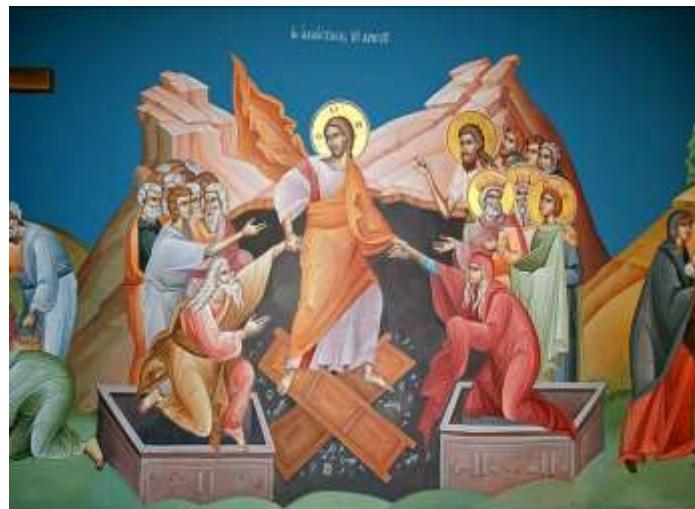
Chrismations



Weddings



Funerals



Father Dimitri's Message



My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christ is risen!

By the time you read this article we will have been back to largely normal routines for a few weeks. We can use our hall for fellowship and meetings again! The first Sunday of June was the first coffee hour in more than a year.

This is very exciting. As we resumed liturgical life in June of 2020, we now can resume our parish life in June of 2021. Now we can put away loneliness and separation. Now we can embrace one another physically in addition to spiritually.

While this is happy news, it catches us on the tail end of the scholastic year, at a time when many people are scheduling vacations and other activities that take them away from St. Basil in the summertime. These events are important, too, as there is a season for everything. Nevertheless, I invite you to engage in your faith at St. Basil, or perhaps the better term would be (re)engage as, after almost two years, our muscles will have grown a little weak. That's ok! We are all here together to lift one another up and rediscover what makes our parish such a phenomenal place.

It is for this reason that I rejoice that this time happens in the lead up to Pentecost. The disciples were not ready to receive the Holy Spirit until they had experienced truly the death and resurrection of Christ. Then, after 10 days of prayer following our Lord's Ascension, they were prepared to receive that flame of the Holy Spirit.

My summer challenge to you is to prepare yourself for the spirit of Pentecost. Begin now by asking how you and your family can reengage in the community, or possibly engage and encounter the community for the first time. Pray and get excited, as this is an exciting time, and I want us to strike NOW while the fire is hot in each of you.

Welcome home, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Dimitri Tobias, Proistamenos

Sunday School

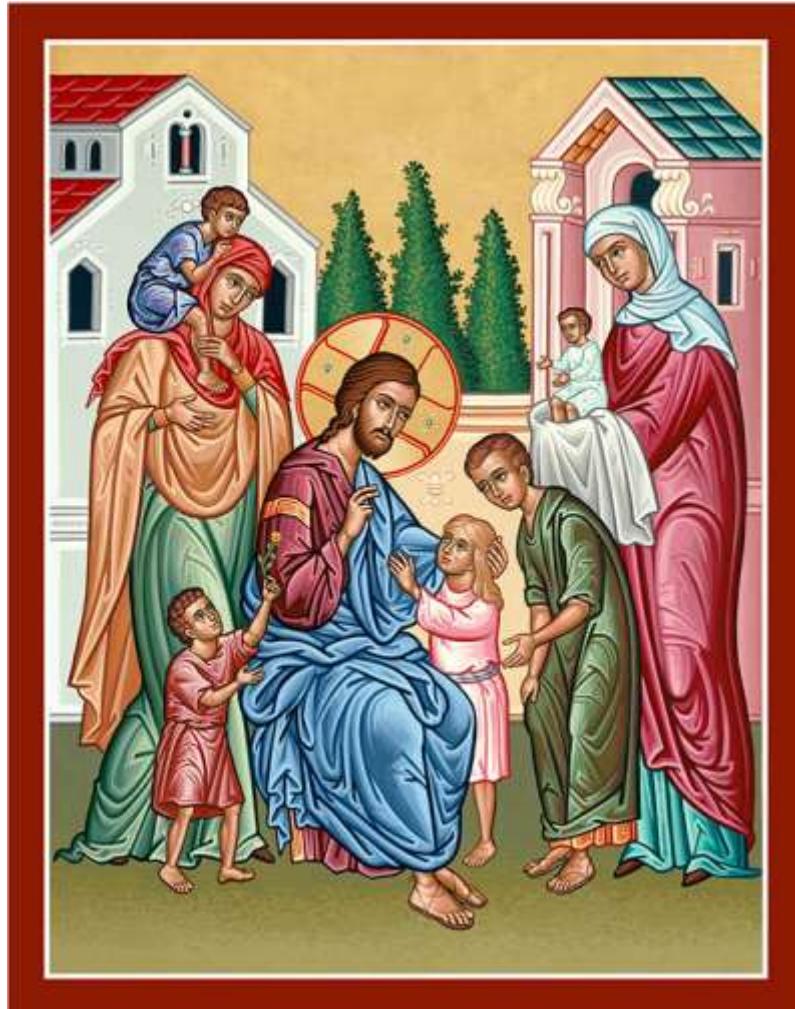
By Jennifer Georgopoulos

The St. Basil Sunday School year 2020-2021 has come to an end. A special thanks to the students who participated in our Sunday School program, and congratulations to our Sunday School graduates, Alexander Damis and Peter Georgopoulos.

Our Bitmoji classroom is still available for reference, so please check it out and take advantage of this wonderful resource. Fall registration will begin in the middle of July. Please look out for our emails.

Our St. Basil Sunday School team has worked so hard to give our students authentic and engaging lessons both in person and via Zoom. A heartfelt thanks goes to our teachers. Dr. Marina Arvanitis, Dr. Ed Franklin, Stella Antonoglu, Irene Antonoglu, Marina Tsapaliaris and Cristina Pinto.

Have a wonderful Summer and if you have any questions regarding the Saint Basil Sunday School program please email Jennifer Georgopoulos at jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net.



Parish Council Update

By Jayme Schenk

St. Basil Parishioners, Christos Anesti!

I hope everyone was able to enjoy a beautiful Pascha this year at St. Basil.

I can't thank everyone enough that helped out throughout Holy Week, from Father, to the chanters, altar servers, Parish Council, the staff, flower committee, Sunday school, and anyone I may have missed. It truly is a group effort at St. Basil.

Per the Metropolis and the CDC, we will be making some changes to our COVID safety guidelines. Please be on the lookout for emails, notices in the bulletin, and signage when you attend St. Basil in the near future.

And a reminder that our annual Golf Outing is back, Sunday August 18 at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park. Join us for a fun-filled day, and consider supporting in any way you can.

More information and sign-up is available on our website.

Christ Has Risen!

Stay safe,
Jayme Schenk
Parish Council President

Philoptochos Update

By Nichole Kourvas Drimonas

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos is proud to announce a summer fundraiser: **Men in Black: Priests Who Cook**. This virtual series will feature priests cooking up their favorite dishes—including our very own Father Dimitri.

There are several ways to participate in the event. You can register to view the series (via YouTube), purchase raffle tickets, a cookbook, or sponsor/donate to the event itself. All event proceeds will benefit the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Philanthropy Fund.

For more information and donation information see pages 8 and 9 in this newsletter or go online at:
<https://e.givesmart.com/events/lty/>

Be kind. Stay well.

Nichole Kourvas Drimonas
St. Basil Philoptochos President



Stewardship Update



Registration for 2021 has begun. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/stewardship/> or contact the church office. We are looking forward to an exciting and prosperous year.

2021 Snapshot (as of May 31, 2021)

<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
133	\$189,624	\$100,513

Saint Basil stewardship ministry wants to hear from you. Have any questions, comments, ideas, or feedback? Let us know how we're doing so that we can better serve our church.

Have you become a steward of St. Basil's?

Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Our Parish" and "Stewardship" to learn more, or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matt. 6:21).

2021 Stewardship Challenge

This year, the stewardship committee has set an additional challenge to our stewards for the 2021 year. We challenge each steward to become a member of at least one ministry of our parish. With so many to choose from, this should be an easy task. If you want to volunteer, we have philanthropy ministries. If you want to get involved in the life of the church, we have ministries for that too. Join us in making our parish more complete by your presence.

Embrace the Challenge!





GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF
CHICAGO PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

presents

VIRTUAL COOKING SERIES



Don't miss the fun!

Our Metropolis priests cook their favorite recipes!

Launch Date
JUNE 20, 2021

ALL PROCEEDS to benefit the
Metropolis Philoptochos Philanthropy Fund

Series Cost \$40

More information to follow at:
<https://chicagophilo.org>



For questions contact:
Wanita Loupakos 331-333-2329

Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Cooking Series Fundraiser



Sponsorship Form

CORPORATE LEVELS

<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Benefactor	\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ 500.00

LEVELS

<input type="checkbox"/> Trustee	\$ 250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$ 25.00

Please submit checks and forms (mail or online) by June 1, 2021

*Please print your name as you wish it to appear in the Sponsorship Listing.

*NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

RECEIVED: \$ _____ CHECK # _____ DATE: _____

Mail to: Pat Gerbanas
2524 W. Ainslie
Chicago, IL 60625

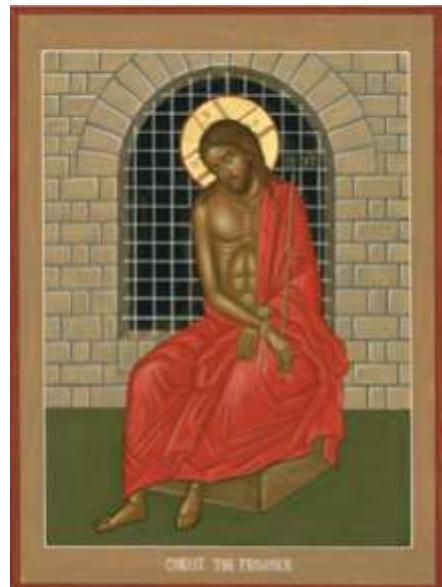
Prison Ministry

By Pat Cole

St. Basil prison ministry welcomes a partner.

Our St. Basil prison ministry is embarking on a promising new relationship with parishioners at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Glenview. They are in the process of forming their own prison ministry and have sought our help and advice.

At a meeting with their men's group on May 11 we discussed partnering with them over the next few months to give them an idea of what our ministry does to serve our incarcerated brothers and sisters. Beginning this month, they will help us send out Father's Day cards to some 50 men in our database, and this Christmas they will take on some names from our Angel Tree program. This will allow us to serve more families in our community around St. Basil and will also give the Sts. Peter and Paul volunteers a chance to perform various roles within the program such as making calls to caregivers, purchasing gifts, and helping us deliver gifts to the families.



By helping the St. Basil prison ministry, the Sts. Peter and Paul ministry will be able to determine how they want to structure their own program. We are excited about the possibilities of this partnership and grateful for their help in our ministry. Many thanks to Deacon Ted Saclarides from Sts. Peter and Paul for reaching out to us.

St. Tryphon Garden Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis

The St. Tryphon Garden Ministry would like to thank all of our incredible volunteers who helped beautify the outside of our church for Lamentations and Anastasi services, more of which were held outdoors this year for pandemic safety reasons.

Volunteers tended to our gardens and adorned the parish grounds with luminary candles, festal flags, and a banner that declares "Christ is Risen!" in 25 languages. Our parish welcomed worshipers and the Feast of Feasts in such a beautiful way!

As summer approaches, please consider volunteering in the gardens. It's always an enjoyable experience, with neighbors stopping by to talk about the gardens and inquire about our church. There is always work to be done, so all volunteers are welcome and no green thumb is required. Please contact Marina Arvanitis (marvanitis@uwalumni.com) for details.



Dress a Girl Around the World Ministry

By Dorothy Bezemis

Along with everyone else, we pray that there is now a light at the end of the tunnel for Covid-19. This then means we will once again have our Annual Metropolis Dress a Girl Around the World Sew-a-thon on Saturday, November 13, 2021. A “Save the Date” flyer will be coming out soon, and in the meantime, we ask that you please mark your calendars.



This event is not only for Philoptochos members, albeit we ask all our Philoptochos members to plan to attend and help host this annual event. We invite our church family and their friends and family to also attend, if only for an hour, so that you can see the work that we are doing to help the children in impoverished countries. Through the past eight years we have sewn and delivered over 2,000 dresses, and along with the dresses we have added underwear, hand-written notes written by our Sunday School children, and bracelets made by them as well. Bomba has donated socks to us, and we are now including two pair for each child.

Down the line we noticed the photos showing the boys' faces as they saw the dresses were being handed out to their classmates and nothing for them. We then decided that we would start making boys' pants, with two back pockets filled with underwear, and they too will be receiving two pair of Bomba socks.

These dresses and pants are hand-carried and hand-delivered to the various countries because otherwise they are confiscated.

Thus far we have delivered dresses and pants to Haiti, Zambia, Philippines, Uganda, India, Greece, Kenya, Oklahoma, and Corpus Christi, Texas. We have reached out so many times when the hurricanes have hit our country, but although they are all very appreciative, they do not want clothing but need money to purchase stoves and refrigerators and in many instances to rebuild.



When we first started with this ministry, we saw a picture of a little girl wearing her new dress with a big smile on her face. The caption read as follows:

“THIS MAY BE THE ONLY NEW DRESS THIS LITTLE GIRL WILL EVER OWN”

That picture and caption will never be forgotten.

Me Agape,
The Dress a Girl Committee

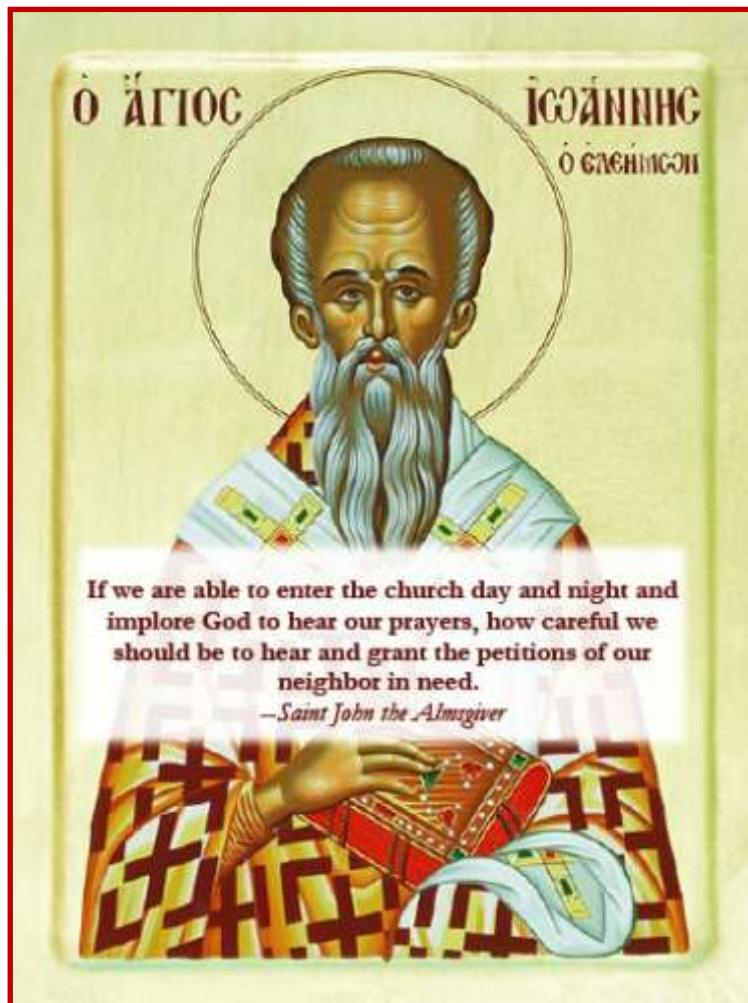
St. John the Almsgiver Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis

Throughout the winter months, the St. John the Almsgiver ministry kept a steady supply of winter parkas and fleece blankets ready for anyone who came to our parish doors in need. Thank you to all who generously donated these coats and blankets, and to Nick Katsoulis who lovingly distributed them.

This winter, the ministry also resumed packing Almsgiver packs for our homeless brothers and sisters in need. In addition to the usual winter pack items (a prayer and resource sheet, \$10 Jewel-Osco card, winter hat, long underwear, socks, hand and body warmers, water bottle, granola bar, and personal hygiene supplies (comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, Band-Aids), the 2021 winter packs also included Covid-19 personal protective items (N-95 mask and hand-sanitizing wipes). The St. John the Almsgiver ministry sincerely thanks all the St. Basil parishioners and donors who contributed the pack components, as well as all those who distributed the packs. Your generosity is a true inspiration in the spirit of St. John himself.

The ministry will be restocking our AmazonSmile wish list and resuming packing spring-summer Almsgiver packs. If you wish to donate, please keep a lookout for wish list updates, or bring any number of \$10 Jewel-Osco cards to the church office. If you wish to help with ministry planning or packing the Almsgiver packs, please contact Marina Arvanitis (marvanitis@uwalumni.com).



St. John the Almsgiver Ministry - Items Needed

If you would like to support the St. John the Almsgiver ministry, you can purchase items from AmazonSmile wish list (see items below) or donate Jewel-Osco gift card(s).

Amazon Smile Wish List: Purchase the items we currently need from our AmazonSmile wish list. Whatever you purchase will be shipped directly to St. Basil.

- + Cloth Covid-19 mask
- + 1 winter item (hat, gloves, scarf, etc.)
- + 1 long underwear set
- + 2 pairs of single-use warmers (foot and body)
- + 1 pair of white tube socks
- + 1 toothbrush
- + 1 tube of toothpaste
- + 1 comb
- + 6 Band-Aids
- + 3 antimicrobial hand wipes
- + 1 bottle of water
- + 1 granola bar
- + 1 gift card (Jewel \$10)

Donate Gift Cards: We are always in need of \$10 Jewel-Osco cards. To purchase these, you can call or email Jewel-Osco and have the cards mailed to St. Basil (733 S. Ashland Ave. Chicago 60607). If you're physically coming to church, you can also drop off gift cards with Vicky Crosby in the office.

St. Basil Religious Education

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



St. Basil
Greek Orthodox Church
of Chicago, Illinois



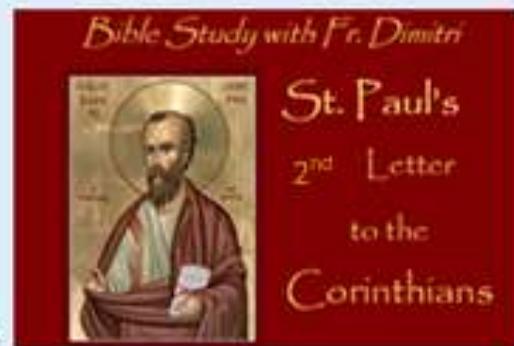
When: Tuesday Mornings –
10:00 am – 11:00 am

Where: ONLINE VIA



Participate in a Zoom Meeting
questions in the comments

Watch on Facebook Live and ask



ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ONLINE
ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

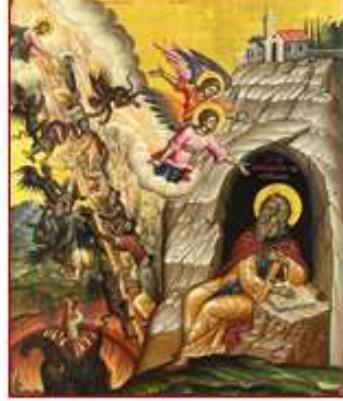
**THE LADDER OF
DIVINE ASCENT**

ACQUIRE THE HEAVENLY VIRTUES AND LOVE GOD MORE FULLY

Join us online each week
Wednesday Evenings 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Zoom Classroom
<https://zoom.us/j/97901297537>
Meeting ID: 979 0129 7537

Read the Text Online by [Clicking this Link](#)

An icon depicting St. John Climacus, the author of "The Ladder of Divine Ascent". He is shown sitting in a dark, rocky grotto, writing in a book. Above him, an angel descends from heaven, carrying a ladder that reaches up towards the clouds. The scene is set against a backdrop of a city and a river.

St. Basil Early Morning Liturgies



Do you work in the city of Chicago?
Would you like to attend Weekday liturgies but cannot because of work? Join us at St. Basil.
6:30 a.m.

June

June 10: Ascension

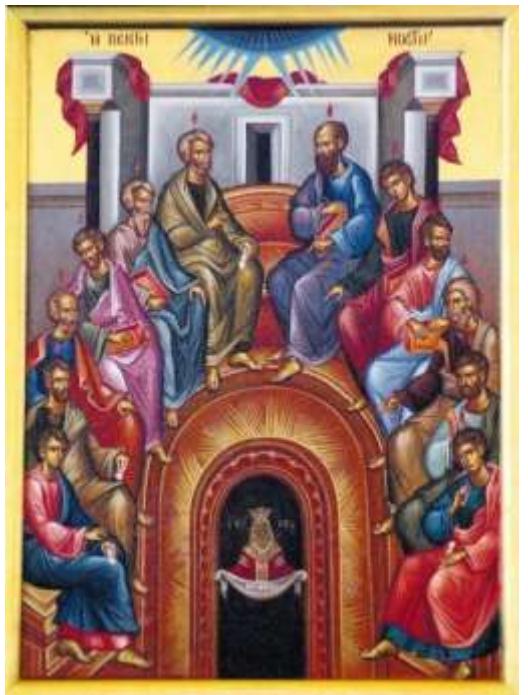
June 24: The Nativity of the Forerunner

Patronal Feasts for the Chicago parishes will not be celebrated at St. Basil
Please check the [St. Basil website calendar](#) for updates to above schedule. Liturgies are
livestreamed on the [St. Basil Facebook page](#).

June 20 — Pentecost

After the Saviour's Ascension into the Heavens, the eleven Apostles and the rest of His disciples, the God-loving women who followed after Him from the beginning, His Mother, the most holy Virgin Mary, and His brethren-all together about 120 souls returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. Entering into the house where they gathered, they went into the upper room, and there they persevered in prayer and supplication, awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, as their Divine Teacher had promised them. In the meanwhile, they chose Matthias, who was elected to take the place of Judas among the Apostles.

Thus, on this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, the tenth day after the Ascension and the fiftieth day after Pascha, at the third hour of the day from the rising of the sun, there suddenly came a sound from Heaven, as when a mighty wind blows, and it filled the whole house where the Apostles and the rest with them were gathered. Immediately after the sound, there appeared tongues of fire that divided and rested upon the head of each one. Filled with the Spirit, all those present began speaking not in their native tongue, but in other tongues and dialects, as the Holy Spirit instructed them.



The multitudes that had come together from various places for the feast, most of whom were Jews by race and religion, were called Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and so forth, according to the places where they dwelt. Though they spoke many different tongues, they were present in Jerusalem by divine dispensation. When they heard that sound that came down from Heaven to the place where the disciples of Christ were gathered, all ran together to learn what had taken place. But they were confounded when they came and heard the Apostles speaking in their own tongues. Marvelling at this, they said one to another, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" But others, because of their foolishness and excess of evil, mocked the wonder and said that the Apostles were drunken.

Then Peter stood up with the eleven, and raising his voice, spoke to all the people, proving that that which had taken place was not drunkenness, but the fulfilment of God's promise that had been spoken by the Prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I shall pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28), and he preached Jesus of Nazareth unto them, proving in many ways that He is Christ the Lord, Whom the Jews crucified but God raised from the dead. On hearing Peter's teaching, many were smitten with compunction and received the word. Thus, they were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added to the Faith of Christ.

Such, therefore, are the reasons for today's feast: the coming of the All-holy Spirit into the world, the completion of the Lord Jesus Christ's promise, and the fulfilment of the hope of the sacred disciples, which we celebrate today. This is the final feast of the great mystery and dispensation of God's incarnation. On this last, and great, and saving day of Pentecost, the Apostles of the Saviour, who were unlearned fishermen, made wise now of a sudden by the Holy Spirit, clearly and with divine authority spoke the heavenly doctrines. They became heralds of the truth and teachers of the whole world. On this day they were ordained and began their apostleship, of which the salvation of those three thousand souls in one day was the comely and marvellous first fruit.

Some erroneously hold that Pentecost is the "birthday of the Church." But this is not true, for the teaching of the holy Fathers is that the Church existed before all other things. In the second vision of The Shepherd of Hermas we read: "Now brethren, a revelation was made unto me in my sleep by a youth of exceeding fair form, who said to me, 'Whom thinkest thou the aged woman, from whom thou receivedst the book, to be?' I say, 'The Sibyl.' 'Thou art wrong,' saith he, 'she is not.' 'Who then is she?' I say. 'The Church,' saith he. I said unto him, 'Wherefore then is she aged?' 'Because,' saith

he, 'she was created before all things; therefore is she aged, and for her sake the world was framed.'" Saint Gregory the Theologian also speaks of "the Church of Christ ... both before Christ and after Christ" (PG 35:1108-9). Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus writes, "The Catholic Church, which exists from the ages, is revealed most clearly in the incarnate advent of Christ" (PG 42:640). Saint John Damascene observes, "The Holy Catholic Church of God, therefore, is the assembly of the holy Fathers, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists, and Martyrs who have been from the very beginning, to whom were added all the nations who believed with one accord" (PG 96, 1357c). According to Saint Gregory the Theologian, "The Prophets established the Church, the Apostles conjoined it, and the Evangelists set it in order" (PG 35, 589 A). The Church existed from the creation of the Angels, for the Angels came into existence before the creation of the world, and they have always been members of the Church. Saint Clement, Bishop of Rome, says in his second epistle to the Corinthians, the Church "was created before the sun and moon"; and a little further on, "The Church existeth not now for the first time, but hath been from the beginning" (II Cor. 14).

That which came to pass at Pentecost, then, was the ordination of the Apostles, the commencement of the apostolic preaching to the nations, and the inauguration of the priesthood of the new Israel. Saint Cyril of Alexandria says that "Our Lord Jesus Christ herein ordained the instructors and teachers of the world and the stewards of His divine Mysteries ... showing together with the dignity of Apostleship, the incomparable glory of the authority given them ... Revealing them to be splendid with the great dignity of the Apostleship and showing them forth as both stewards and priests of the divine altars . . . they became fit to initiate others through the enlightening guidance of the Holy Spirit" (PG 74, 708-712). Saint Gregory Palamas says, "Now, therefore . . . the Holy Spirit descended . . . showing the Disciples to be supernal luminaries . . . and the distributed grace of the Divine Spirit came through the ordination of the Apostles upon their successors" (Homily 24, 10). And Saint Sophronius, Bishop of Jerusalem, writes, "After the visitation of the Comforter, the Apostles became high priests" (PG 87, 3981B). Therefore, together with the baptism of the Holy Spirit which came upon them who were present in the upper chamber, which the Lord had foretold as recorded in the Acts, "ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence" (Acts 1:5), the Apostles were also appointed and raised to the high priestly rank, according to Saint John Chrysostom (PG 60, 21). On this day commenced the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by which we become "partakers of the Divine Nature" (II Peter 1:4). For before Pentecost, it is said of the Apostles and disciples only that they abode in "prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:14); it is only after the coming of the Holy Spirit that they persevered in the "breaking of bread," that is, the communion of the Holy Mysteries- "and in prayer" (Acts 2:42).

The feast of holy Pentecost, therefore, determined the beginning of the priesthood of grace, not the beginning of the Church. Henceforth, the Apostles proclaimed the good tidings "in country and town," preaching and baptizing and appointing shepherds, imparting the priesthood to them whom they judged were worthy to minister, as Saint Clement writes in his first Epistle to the Corinthians (I Cor. 42).

All foods allowed during the week following Pentecost.

Apolytikion of Pentecost — Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

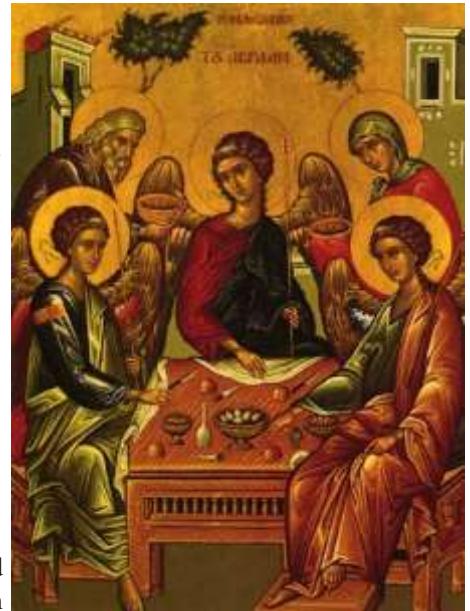
Kontakion of Pentecost — Plagal of the Fourth Tone

When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men (Babel), He divided the Nations. When He dispensed the Tongues of Fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.

June 21—Monday of the Holy Spirit

As it is the custom of the Church, on the day after every great Feast, to honour those through whom it came to pass our Lady on the day after the Lord's Nativity, Joachim and Anna after our Lady's Nativity, the holy Baptist the day after Theophany, and so forth, on this day we honour our God the All-holy Spirit, the Comforter promised by our Saviour to His disciples (John 14:16), Who descended upon them at holy Pentecost and guided them "into all truth" (ibid. 16:13), and through them, us.

Rest from labour.



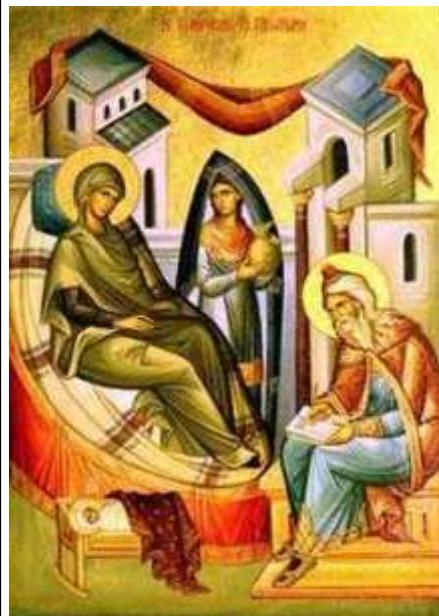
Apolytikion of Monday of the Holy Spirit —Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

Kontakion of Monday of the Holy Spirit —Plagal of the Fourth Tone

When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men (Babel), He divided the Nations. When He dispensed the Tongues of Fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.

June 24—Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist



He that was greater than all who are born of women, the Prophet who received God's testimony that he surpassed all the Prophets, was born of the aged and barren Elizabeth (Luke 1: 7) and filled all his kinsmen, and those that lived round about, with gladness and wonder. But even more wondrous was that which followed on the eighth day when he was circumcised, that is, the day on which a male child receives his name. Those present called him Zacharias, the name of his father. But the mother said, "Not so, but he shall be called John." Since the child's father was unable to speak, he was asked, by means of a sign, to indicate the child's name. He then asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And immediately Zacharias' mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed from its silence of nine months, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he blessed the God of Israel, Who had fulfilled the promises made to their fathers, and had visited them that were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and had sent to them the light of salvation. Zacharias prophesied concerning the child also, saying that he would be a Prophet of the Most High and Forerunner of Jesus Christ. And the child John, who was filled with grace, grew and waxed strong in the Spirit; and he was in the wilderness until the day of his showing to Israel (Luke 1:57-80). His name is a variation of the Hebrew "Johanan," which means "Yah is gracious."

Apolytikion of Nativity of John the Forerunner —Fourth Tone

O Prophet and Forerunner of the presence of Christ, we who fervently honor you cannot worthily praise you. For by your revered and glorious birth the barrenness of your mother and the muteness of your father were unbound, and the incarnation of the Son of God is proclaimed to the world.

Kontakion of Nativity of John the Forerunner — Third Tone

She that once was barren doth today bring forth Christ's Forerunner, John, the culmination and the crown of all the Prophets. For when he, in River Jordan, laid his hand on Him Whom the Prophets preached aforetime, he was revealed as God the Word's fore-chosen Prophet, His mighty preacher, and His Forerunner in grace.

June 29—Peter and Paul, the Holy Apostles

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias (see Oct. 1), he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness. And straightway—O wondrous transformation! - beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his unabating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stonings, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart afire, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles. His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by the divine Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

Apolytikion of Apostles Peter and Paul —Fourth Tone

First in prominence among the Apostles, and teachers to the Universe, intercede to the Master of all for peace in the world and for our souls great mercy.

Kontakion of Apostles Peter and Paul —Second Tone

O Lord, receive unto the enjoyment of Your good things and Your rest, the steadfast preachers of Godly words, the pinnacle of Your Disciples. Receive their pain and death above every sacrifice, for You alone know the hearts of men.



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AUG. 18, 2021

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St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 am Bible Study	2	3	4 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	5
6 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Sunday of the Blind Man	7 7:00 pm Parish Council	8 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Philoptochos ZOOM Meeting	9 7:00 pm Great Vespers for Ascension	10 6:30 am Early Morning Divine Liturgy for Holy Ascension 7:00 pm Great Vespers for the Apostle Bartholomew (Nathanael)	11 Metropolitan Nathanael Name Day Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Orthos and Divine Liturgy for the Apostle Bartholomew (Nathanael)	12
13 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Fathers of the First Council	14	15 10:00 am Bible Study	16 5:30 pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30 pm Online A.R.E. Class	17	18 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	19 Juneteenth Orthros and Divine Liturgy for The Saturday of Souls
20 8:15 am Father's Day Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Holy Pentecost	21	22 10:00 am Bible Study	23 5:30 pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30 pm Online A.R.E. Class	24 6:30 am Early Morning Divine Liturgy for The Nativity of the Forerunner	25 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	26
27 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for The Sunday of All Saints	28	29 8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Ss. Peter and Paul (at Ss. Peter & Paul, Glenview, IL) 7:00 pm "Great Vespers for Holy Apostles (at Westchester parish)"	30 8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Synaxis of the Holy Apostles" (at Holy Apostles in Westchester, IL)			



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



Chicago, IL 60607

733 South Ashland Ave.

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church